

## **AN OVERVIEW OF THE MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

The Monroe County District Attorney's Office is charged with prosecuting felony and misdemeanor crimes and violations perpetrated against the citizens of Monroe County. With 70 attorneys and support staff of 68, the DAs Office is one of the largest law firms in Monroe County. Based on caseload (5,550 felony arraignments, 28,399 non-felony arraignments in 2002), the Monroe County District Attorney's Office ranks in the top ten offices in counties statewide.

The District Attorney is a constitutional officer elected to a four-year term as Chief Prosecutor for Monroe County. The work performed by the DAs Office is mandated by state law. The First Assistant District Attorney is appointed by the District Attorney and is responsible for homicide prosecutions, and general office administration.

The office is structured into 13 bureaus and units. Each bureau or unit is overseen by a bureau chief or unit head.

### **MAJOR FELONY/GUN VIOLENCE BUREAU**

Prosecutes career criminals and violent felony offense categories of robbery, burglary, assault, rape, and sexual abuse, cases involving the use of firearms in the commission of a felony. In addition, two of the ADAs assigned specialize in prosecuting felonies involving the illegal possession and sale of firearms, and work with the US Attorney's Office in the Project Exile program, which allows the prosecution of some of these cases in Federal Court in order to obtain longer prison sentences than State Courts may allow.

Homicide prosecutions are overseen directly by the First Assistance District Attorney with assistance from other attorneys assigned to this bureau.

### **SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU**

Prosecutes all felony drug possession and sale cases, obtains court orders for wiretaps when required, and works with arresting agencies to seize the assets of convicted drug dealers.

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/ELDER ABUSE BUREAU**

Prosecutes all child abuse cases, domestic violence cases, and non-violent felony cases where the victim is age 65 or older.

### **DWI BUREAU**

Prosecutes all defendants charged with felony DWI, vehicular assaults and homicides, and related cases (Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Vehicle 1<sup>st</sup> for example).

### **ECONOMIC CRIME/ SUPERIOR COURT BUREAU**

Economic Crime ADA's prosecute cases of major fraud (generally involving amounts of \$10,000 or more) on the part of individuals, businesses, or their employees. They also investigate and prosecute county-wide check fraud schemes, all cases of felony insurance fraud, Welfare fraud, bank robberies not involving the use of firearms, and work with the County Child Support Enforcement Unit to identify and prosecute child support delinquency cases. Superior Court ADA's prosecute non-violent felony burglary cases, auto theft, grand larceny, felony criminal mischief, and fraud cases not prosecuted by the other more specialized bureaus.

### **GRAND JURY BUREAU**

Grand Jury administrative staff assist all felony attorneys in scheduling cases for Grand Jury presentation, and work with the Office of the Commissioner of Jurors to ensure the smooth operation of the several Grand Juries that are empanelled each court term in Monroe County. The ADA who supervises the bureau also advises prosecutors on presentation procedures and techniques.

### **LOCAL COURTS BUREAU**

Prosecutes all misdemeanors and violations in city, town, and village courts, and handles traffic matters in the village and town courts. Those assigned to City Court also oversee most felony arraignments. This bureau alone handles over 28,000 cases per year.

### **APPEALS BUREAU**

Responds to all appeals made in felony cases, and makes appellate motions on behalf of Prosecutors assigned to the other bureaus. Also handles all fugitive matters, extradition cases, Federal Habeas Corpus requests, and Freedom of Information Act inquiries. Attorneys argue cases before all appellate courts, including the US Supreme Court.

### **COMMUNITY PROSECUTION PROGRAM**

One part-time ADA works directly with police and community groups on “restorative justice” or neighborhood-based grass roots crime prevention and prosecution issues.

### **VICTIM WITNESS UNIT**

Works with victims of serious felonies, helping them cope with the demands of the criminal justice system. Makes referrals to counseling, arranges rides to and from court, provides interpreters when needed, assists in preparation of victim impact statements, referrals for assistance from the NYS Crime Victims Board. Staff also works with ADAs and Probation staff to obtain court orders for restitution for losses.

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVESTIGATORS**

Locates additional witnesses to enhance the prosecution of cases, interviews witness, transports victims and witnesses to court appearances. Also undertakes sealed investigations under the direction of ADAs, and provides assistance to other police and government agencies in arson and child support delinquency investigations.

### **ADMINISTRATION/SUPPORT SERVICES**

Manages DA budget, undertakes grant writing and grant management, oversees personnel procedures, provides all clerical support, data entry, and other support services as required.

Structure of Monroe County District Attorneys Office

